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theroretical work were to be given only in central schools. The secretary of the legislative committee secured an invitation for the nurses to go before the Medical Society and explain their stand. As a result, about one hundred nurses attended a meeting of the Medical Society. Miss Gillis of the City Hospital School of Nursing outlined the bill, which provides for: (1) A gradual raising of preliminary educational standards; (2) Mandatory registration for nurses and attendants; (3) Provision for training attendants with registration and licensing of same; (4) Annual registration; (5) Establishing the office of educational director. Helen Wood, chairman of the Legislative Committee, told of the survey just completed and brought out the fact that the survey showed that where the standards of the schools are highest, there are the greatest number of applicants. A lengthy discussion followed and though a lively interest was apparent there was a fine spirit of coöperation. Finally the leader of the opposition, being satisfied that the demands of the nurses were just, made a motion, which was carried, that the St. Louis Medical Society approve the bill in question.

Missouri

M. S. W.

OLD COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

Dear Editor: I have the following copies of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING and would like to dispose of them for ten cents: July and August, 1908; September and October, 1909; April, September, November, and December, 1910; October, November, December, January and March, 1911; January through September (with the exception of July), 1912; complete files of 1918, 1919, and 1920, excepting January.

316 N. Market St., Thorntown, Ind.

FLORENCE CONES.

LETTERS FROM NAVY NURSES,—FROM THE U. S. S. RELIEF

My dear ———:

February 27, 1921.

I know you are very anxious to hear how we are getting on. Fine! And did I hear you say you were afraid the nurses would be idle until we reached the Fleet and patients were received? Let me ease your mind by saying there is not a busier beehive than on the Good Ship *Relief*. We are putting a new hospital in commission and in addition to other considerations, we have to think of the wind and the waves. Therefore, every instrument and appliance must have the groove where it will be anchored. The sewing machine has buzzed from morning until bedtime and dressings, glove holders, etc., are being made as fast as nimble fingers can fly. In addition to this work, we had the wards fitted up and in excellent condition for Saturday inspection. The effect was good and the Captain was so pleased that he sent a personal memo. thanking the nurses for the work done and the spirit they had shown.

March 2, 1921.

I have been so busy I have not had time to finish my letter and now we are enjoying the southern breezes while you are probably being whisked about by March winds. I should say we are all fair sailors. Only three of our number have been overcome so far that their heads went down and they looked as if they had fallen into a bucket of whitewash; but even *they* have been in good spirits and all are on duty this morning, though one or two are keeping an eye on the distance between themselves and safety. I am encouraging them to keep busy, as it is apparently the best remedy, though they can always turn in at quarters. As you know, we are running our own mess, and after the easy method of subsistence in our Naval Hospitals, this arrangement calls for considerable thought and planning, but I believe we have safely passed our first milestone and there will

be some money left in the treasury. I feel very happy over this and I am sure when the ward room steward and the cook have a better knowledge of our likes and dislikes, we shall be in clover. Meanwhile the nurses enjoy the novelty of the arrangement. Miss K was elected Mess Treasurer for March. We intend to run a little close, so that we will have a bank account sufficient to put in the stores that we want. We are all enthusiastic that the plan is developing so successfully. During our short stop at Hampton Roads, the boats brought the nurses from that hospital over to the ship and later took them home. They appeared to enjoy their visit greatly and we were proud hostesses. To-day, the ship is being washed so that she will be spick and span when we join the Fleet. What a wonderful moment it is going to be. We are thrilled when we think of it. The nurses are to be on the bridge deck, the officers on the upper deck, and all will be at attention as we approach and swing into place. We had our first operation last night,—appendectomy. Everything went off beautifully; there was so little motion that we forgot we were on shipboard. In the operating room, not a sound, that is, not one of the ship's sounds, could be heard.

March 4—Guantanamo Bay.

I doubt if anyone in Washington has been as thrilled to-day as we were when we swung into the Bay. We sighted Cuba about 6:00 a. m. and at 12 we rounded the point. Four hydroplanes came up to meet us. The sky was amazingly blue with great banks of white fleecy clouds and there was no flaw in the appearance of our beautiful ship. All the partially sick nurses are in fine condition now and are fully equipped with "sea legs." The *Solace* (one of the old hospital ships) is here and looks like a little tug boat, but of course all look small beside the "Master Hospital Ship." I can hear you saying, "How much they dislike themselves!"

J. B. B.

THE HANDICAP OF ONE SCHOOL

Dear Editor: I am a very interested reader of the JOURNAL, and have read repeated discussions on shortage of student nurses, so I would like to contribute my opinion as to the cause. I believe one of the causes is poor and insufficient food. Sorry to state that such is the case in our school. Since I have been in the school, we have never had one thing served to us hot, except, on one occasion, some hot soup, due to the fact that a member of the Board was a guest at dinner. Soup is a very special dish, being served about once every two months. Potatoes never vary, always boiled whole and served to us absolutely cold; oatmeal, in the morning, is always cold, with cold milk, consequently we do not eat it. Suppers never vary, always cold fried potatoes, with tea so black it looks like coffee, for the woman in the kitchen believes in boiling tea. There is always only half enough for us to eat,—seldom any provision made for the night nurses. It is a well known fact that we maintain the restaurants and lunch houses of the town, most of our money goes for eats; we must spend it or be hungry most of the time. The woman in charge of the kitchen is very old in the service, and having grown up with the place she feels she owns the hospital and the nurses. We had a very agreeable maid in the kitchen for a while, but because she was good to us, and tried to see that we got something to eat when she had the chance, she was discharged. So you can see why our girl friends do not enter the training school. I believe it is a mistake to grow old in charge of a hospital and remain narrow; it would be better to find out what the rest of our friends are doing. I do wish our outlook were brighter, as I would like to see our hospital with a good sized training school.

New York

J. M.